

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /139 W

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R 031400Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0901
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1645

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS, TU, UR
SUBJ: SOVIET-TURKISH CONSULTATIONS ON LAW OF THE SEA

REF: ANKARA 1376(DTG 230730Z FEB 78)

1. MFA LAW OF THE SEA (LOS) SECTION CHIEF, SUHA UMAR,
IN BRIEFING TO EMBOFF, DESCRIBED FEBRUARY 23-24 DISCUS-
SIONS WITH VISITNG SOVIET LOS EXPERTS (REFTEL), AS A
THOROUGH REVIEW OF BOTH COUNTRIES' POSITIONS ON LOS
ISSUES DURING WHICH NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OF POSITION
WERE NOTED AND NO NEW AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED (DESPITE
SENSATIONALIST PRESS CLAIMS OF AGREEMENTS). UMAR
DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AS "VERY
FRIENDLY" AND OPEN.

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2. UMAR SAID THAT SINCE THE TURKISH WERE FAMILIAR WITH
EARLIER SOVIET POSITIONS, THEY HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN
THE TALKS PRIMARILY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ANY NEW
ELEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE DISCLOSED, BUT SAW NONE OF ANY
SIGNIFICANCE. SOVIET AND TURKISH VIEWS CONTINUED TO BE
CLOSE IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO AN INCREASE OF GREEK TER-

RITORIAL SEAS IN THE AEGEAN FROM 6 TO 12 MILES (WHICH WOULD REQUIRE ALL INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING THROUGH THE AEGEAN TO PASS THROUGH GREEK WATERS), AN "AGREEMENT" WHICH WAS WIDELY NOTED IN THE TURKISH PRESS. THE SOVIETS, LIKE THE TURKS, ARE OPPOSED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPULSORY JURISDICTION FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES WHICH MAY ARISE UNDER AN LOS TREATY. THE SOVIETS WERE ALSO SAID TO HOLD THE VIEW THAT, IN THE DELIMITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTS, ALL ISLANDS AND SEAS SHOULD BE TREATED ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE RATHER THAN COMING UNDER INFLEXIBLE RULES (THE BASIC TURKISH THESIS IN THE DISPUTE WITH GREECE OVER DEMARCATION OF THE AEGEAN).

3. MAJOR AREA OF DISAGREEMENT REMAINS OVER FIRST COMMITTEE ISSUES (DEEP-SEABED MINING) WHERE, ACCORDING TO UMAR, TURKEY'S POSITION IS BASICALLY LIKE THAT OF THE "GROUP OF 77" WHILE THE SOVIETS SIDE MORE WITH THE US.

4. THE SOVIETS APPEARED UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ALLOWING AMERASINGHE TO CONTINUE AS LOS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT BUT WOULD GO ALONG WITH IT.

SPIERS

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